

INSIGHTS

Labor Market Information

SC Department of Employment and Workforce

Economic Indicators

September 2012

	United States	SC
Labor Force	155,063,000	2,134,279
Employed	142,974,000	1,940,026
Unemployed	12,088,000	194,253
Unemployment Rate	7.8%	9.1%

Average Hours & Earnings

	United States	SC
Manufacturing		
Avg. Weekly Earnings	\$ 976.02	\$ 733.57
Avg. Weekly Hours	40.6	42.6
Avg. Hourly Wages	\$ 24.04	\$ 17.22

Top Job Growth by MSA

	Over Month % Change	Over Year % Change
Spartanburg MSA	0.82%	5.25%
Florence MSA	0.59%	4.30%
Charleston MSA	-0.36%	2.45%
Columbia MSA	-0.40%	1.50%

Employment to Population Ratio

	2012	2011
U.S. Population Ratio	58.7%	58.4%
S.C. Population Ratio	53.1%	53.5%

Labor Force Participation Rate

	Sep.	Aug.	% Change
U.S. Participation Rate	63.6%	63.5%	+0.1%
S.C. Participation Rate	58.4%	58.4%	0.0%

United States Consumer Price Index

12-month CPI	2.0%
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Highlights

- The largest unemployment rate decrease since 1983
- Downward employment trend stopped by largest employment increase since 2007
- Overall payroll employment gained 6,400
- Government employment added 15,500 jobs due to schools hiring
- Online job advertisements increased by 2,900
- A rate of 3.3 jobseekers for every job opening (down from 3.7 in August)

View the

[S.C. Employment Situation Report](#)

Employment
13,329



Unemployment
10,738



Unemployment
Rate 0.5%



Unemployment Rate Falls Sharply

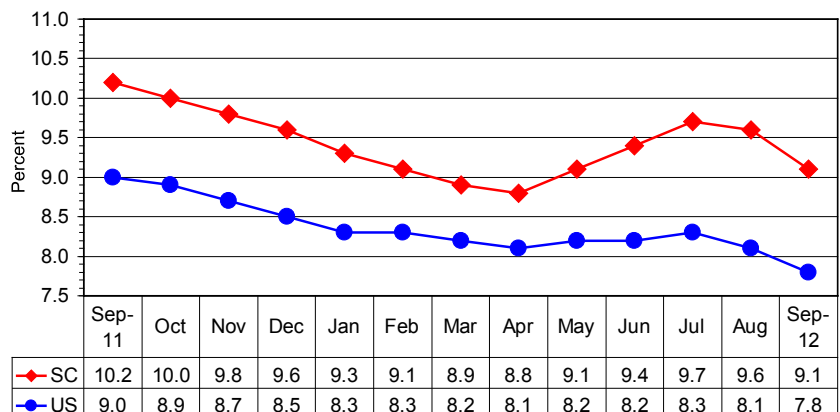
In September, South Carolina's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate estimate fell sharply to 9.1 percent from August's estimate of 9.6 percent. This was the largest over-the-month unemployment rate decrease since the summer of 1983. The September unemployment rate was 1.1 percentage points lower than the 10.2 percent rate of a year ago.

Over the month, the estimated number of unemployed people declined by 10,738 to 194,253, while the estimated level of employed people increased by 13,329 to 1,940,026. It is important to note that the five-month downward trend in employment was halted by the largest over-the-month employment increase since January 2007. The labor force also moved up by approximately 2,600 people to 2,134,279.

Nationally, the unemployment rate dropped from 8.1 percent in August to 7.8 percent in September, primarily driven by a boost in part time employment.

Looking ahead, many "brick and mortar" retailers across the nation are anticipating sales growth this holiday season and are announcing hiring increases as compared to last year. Fulfillment centers for online retailers are also predicting increased hiring. Some areas of uncertainty remain on the horizon with regards to the Budget Control Act of 2011, and its potential impact on the economy heading into 2013 and beyond.

U.S. & S.C. Unemployment Rates
September 2011 through September 2012



Insights is prepared in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. The current month's estimates are preliminary, while all previous data are subject to revision. All estimates are projected from a first quarter 2011 benchmark.

September Unemployment Rates by County

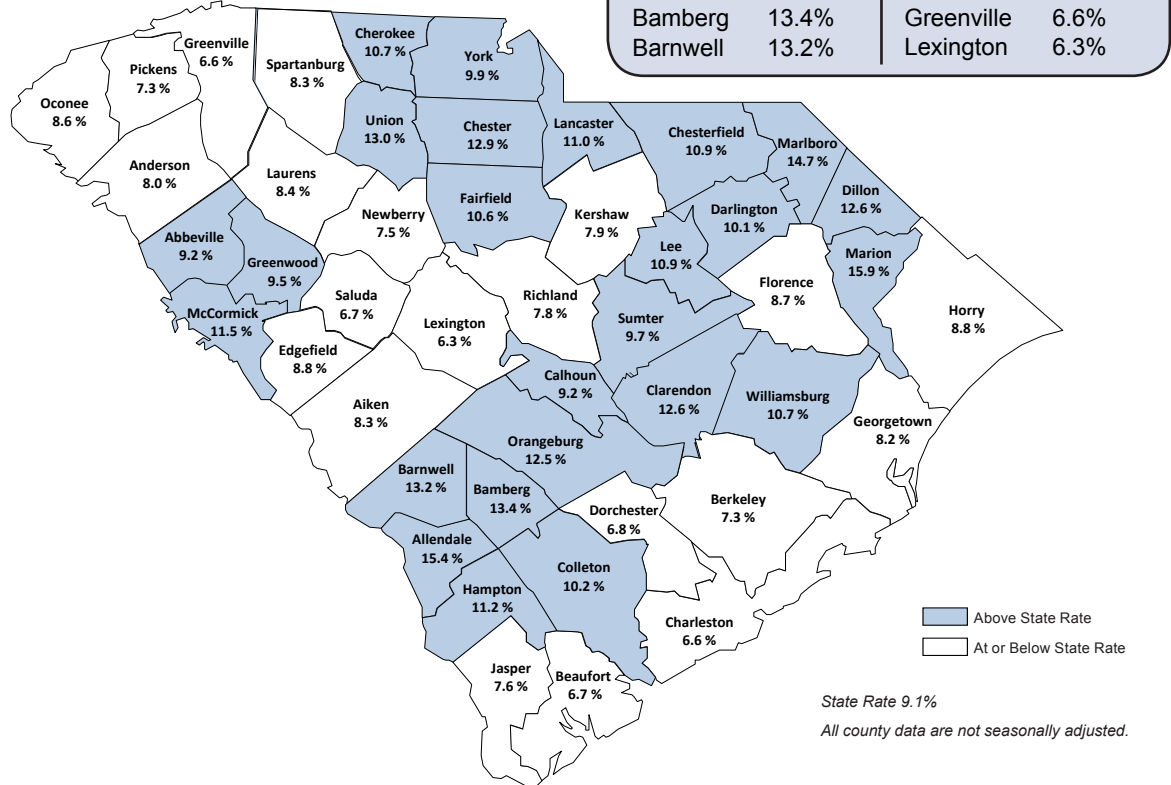
State Unemployment Rates

Nevada	11.8
Rhode Island	10.5
California	10.2
New Jersey	9.8
North Carolina	9.6
Michigan	9.3
Mississippi	9.2
South Carolina	9.1
Georgia	9.0
Connecticut	8.9
New York	8.9
Illinois	8.8
D.C.	8.7
Florida	8.7
Oregon	8.7
Washington	8.5
Kentucky	8.4
Alabama	8.3
Tennessee	8.3
Arizona	8.2
Indiana	8.2
Pennsylvania	8.2
Colorado	8.0
United States	7.8
Maine	7.6
West Virginia	7.6
Alaska	7.5
Wisconsin	7.3
Arkansas	7.1
Idaho	7.1
Louisiana	7.0
Ohio	7.0
Maryland	6.9
Missouri	6.9
Delaware	6.8
Texas	6.8
Massachusetts	6.5
New Mexico	6.4
Montana	6.1
Kansas	5.9
Virginia	5.9
Minnesota	5.8
Hawaii	5.7
New Hampshire	5.7
Utah	5.4
Vermont	5.4
Wyoming	5.4
Iowa	5.2
Oklahoma	5.2
South Dakota	4.4
Nebraska	3.9
North Dakota	3.0

South Carolina received some welcomed news in September with 45 out of 46 counties reporting decreases in their not seasonally adjusted preliminary county unemployment rate estimates from the previous month. Lexington County remained the lowest rate with 6.3 percent, while Marion County reported 15.9 percent, the highest in the state.

Over the year, Spartanburg County had the largest increase in people finding work with a growth of nearly 4,900 jobs in service and manufacturing jobs, and Charleston County followed with approximately 3,800 people finding work. Greenville County saw the largest decline in people working with about 2,000 fewer people working than a year ago, mostly due to a continued reduction in Professional and Business Services demands.

Since September 2011, all 46 counties have seen decreases in their unemployment rates by at least one percent, and more than half the state's counties saw improvement of two percent or more.



South Carolina Ranked Eighth of Fifty-one in September

Forty-one states and the District of Columbia recorded unemployment rate decreases in September. South Carolina posted the largest over-the-month decrease in the unemployment rate and was ranked eighth in the nation among all states. Forty-four states and the District of Columbia registered unemployment rate decreases from a year earlier, while six states experienced increases. The national jobless rate decreased to 7.8 percent from August and was 1.2 percentage points lower than in September 2011.

In September 2012, nonfarm payroll employment increased in 35 states and the District of Columbia and decreased in 15 states. The largest over-the-month increase in employment occurred in Texas (+21,000). The largest over-the-month decrease in employment occurred in Michigan (-13,000). The District of Columbia experienced the largest over-the-month percentage increase in employment (+2.0 percent), followed by Maine (+0.9 percent) and **South Carolina (+0.7 percent)**.

Employment Changes by County July through September 2012

County	Employment			Net Change from:	
	Sept 2012	Aug 2012	Jul 2012	Aug-Sep 2012	Jul-Aug 2012
Abbeville	9,667	9,446	9,550	221	-104
Aiken	68,129	67,574	68,129	555	-555
Allendale	2,781	2,731	2,786	50	-55
Anderson	74,374	73,512	74,226	862	-714
Bamberg	5,360	5,244	5,308	116	-64
Barnwell	7,260	7,105	7,187	155	-82
Beaufort	60,357	58,678	59,302	1,679	-624
Berkeley	78,052	77,627	78,738	425	-1,111
Calhoun	6,035	6,007	6,087	28	-80
Charleston	164,628	163,732	166,075	896	-2,343
Cherokee	22,183	21,606	21,702	577	-96
Chester	12,592	12,360	12,372	232	-12
Chesterfield	16,671	16,333	16,479	338	-146
Clarendon	10,748	10,577	10,737	171	-160
Colleton	15,317	15,006	15,229	311	-223
Darlington	27,942	27,574	27,767	368	-193
Dillon	11,493	11,271	11,411	222	-140
Dorchester	63,819	63,471	64,380	348	-909
Edgefield	10,017	9,935	10,017	82	-82
Fairfield	9,496	9,451	9,577	45	-126
Florence	57,675	56,916	57,315	759	-399
Georgetown	27,231	26,781	27,242	450	-461
Greenville	206,962	204,220	205,337	2,742	-1,117
Greenwood	27,940	27,158	27,412	782	-254
Hampton	6,848	6,701	6,798	147	-97
Horry	116,053	118,198	121,617	-2,145	-3,419
Jasper	9,718	9,448	9,548	270	-100
Kershaw	27,041	26,913	27,274	128	-361
Lancaster	27,259	26,683	26,747	576	-64
Laurens	27,635	27,269	27,418	366	-149
Lee	7,195	7,144	7,254	51	-110
Lexington	123,672	123,088	124,736	584	-1,648
Marion	9,945	9,816	9,983	129	-167
Marlboro	9,726	9,501	9,587	225	-86
McCormick	2,931	2,866	2,895	65	-29
Newberry	16,802	16,472	16,660	330	-188
Oconee	28,452	27,801	28,088	651	-287
Orangeburg	36,024	35,282	35,686	742	-404
Pickens	52,929	52,228	52,514	701	-286
Richland	166,189	165,403	167,618	786	-2,215
Saluda	8,318	8,279	8,390	39	-111
Spartanburg	123,504	121,531	120,993	1,973	538
Sumter	39,601	39,407	39,734	194	-327
Union	9,918	9,694	9,746	224	-52
Williamsburg	14,313	14,077	14,306	236	-229
York	100,260	99,087	97,940	1,173	1,147

Upstate

Santee-Lynches

Pee Dee

WorkLink

Upper Savannah

Midlands

Lower Savannah

Lowcountry

Counties and Colors:

- Greenville (Orange)
- Pickens (Dark Blue)
- Oconee (Dark Blue)
- Anderson (Dark Blue)
- Spartanburg (Pink)
- Cherokee (Pink)
- York (Light Blue)
- Union (Pink)
- Chester (Light Blue)
- Laurens (Orange)
- Newberry (Orange)
- Abbeville (Orange)
- Greenwood (Orange)
- Saluda (Orange)
- McCormick (Orange)
- Edgefield (Orange)
- Fairfield (Green)
- Kershaw (Pink)
- Darlington (Yellow)
- Marlboro (Yellow)
- Dillon (Yellow)
- Florence (Yellow)
- Marion (Yellow)
- Lee (Pink)
- Sumter (Pink)
- Clarendon (Pink)
- Williamsburg (Orange)
- Georgetown (Orange)
- Horry (Orange)
- Lexington (Green)
- Richland (Green)
- Calhoun (Brown)
- Aiken (Brown)
- Orangeburg (Brown)
- Barnwell (Brown)
- Bamberg (Brown)
- Dorchester (Light Blue)
- Berkeley (Light Blue)
- Charleston (Light Blue)
- Trident (Light Blue)
- Colleton (Green)
- Hampton (Green)
- Jasper (Green)
- Beaufort (Green)

Catawba WIA	10.4%
www.catawbacog.org	
Greenville WIA	6.6%
www.greenvillewib.com	
Lowcountry WIA	7.8%
www.lowcountryworkforce.org	
Lower Savannah WIA	10.2%
www.lswia.org	
Midlands WIA	7.3%
www.midlandsworkforce.org	
Pee Dee WIA	10.6%
www.peedeewib.org	
Santee-Lynchess WIA	9.6%
www.slworkforcedev.org	
Trident WIA	6.8%
www.toscc.org	
Upper Savannah WIA	8.6%
www.us1stops.com	
Upstate WIA	9.0%
www.upstatewib.org	
Waccamaw WIA	8.8%
www.wrcog.org	
Worklink WIA	7.9%
www.worklinkweb.com	

A map of South Carolina showing its counties. The map is divided into several color-coded regions, with arrows pointing to specific locations. The regions and their corresponding colors are:

- Green:** Greenville, Pickens, Laurens.
- Orange:** Spartanburg.
- Light Blue:** Anderson.
- Dark Blue:** Darlington, Florence.
- Pink:** Fairfield, Kershaw, Lexington, Richland, Saluda.
- Yellow:** Sumter.
- Purple:** Horry.
- Brown:** Berkeley, Charleston, Dorchester.

Arrows point to the following locations:

- Greenville:** Points to Greenville.
- Spartanburg:** Points to Spartanburg.
- Anderson:** Points to Anderson.
- Columbia:** Points to the center of the state.
- Florence:** Points to Florence.
- Myrtle Beach:** Points to Horry.
- Sumter:** Points to Sumter.
- Charleston:** Points to Charleston.

Anderson MSA	8.0%
Charleston- North Charleston- Summerville MSA	6.8%
Columbia MSA	7.4%
Florence MSA	9.1%
Greenville MSA	6.9%
Myrtle Beach- North Myrtle Beach- Conway MSA	8.8%
Spartanburg MSA	8.3%
Sumter MSA	9.7%

South Carolina Employment Trends

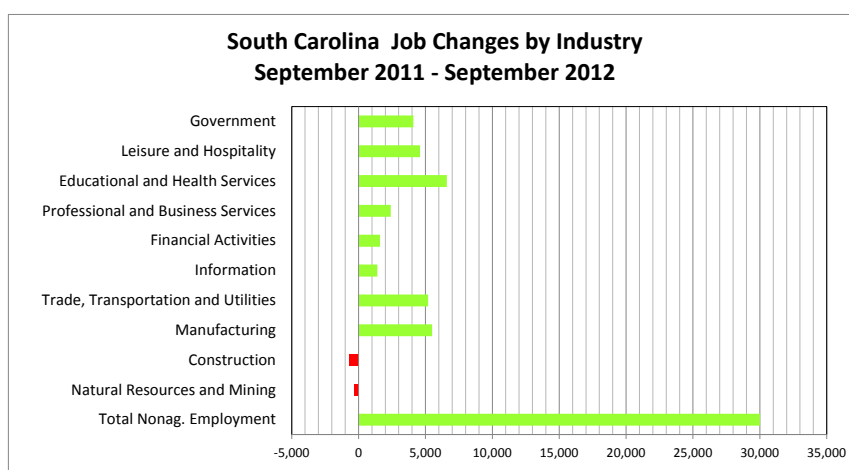
South Carolina saw further positive indicators in nonfarm payroll employment, which increased by 6,400 jobs from August to September. Most of the gain was from a significant rise of 15,500 jobs in the Government sector as state and local schools and institutions completed staffing for the fall term. Education and Health Services gained 3,300 jobs due to an upsurge in private schools staffing and a growing demand for Health Care and Social Assistance Services. Manufacturing added 400 jobs as the demand for durable goods continued to climb.

Employment decreased over the month in Leisure and Hospitality (-5,800); Trade, Transportation and Utilities (-2,500); Professional and Business Services (-2,100); Construction (-1,900); Financial Activities (-200); and Information (-200). These industry job losses were partially due to summer tourism ending; a decline in Administrative and Support Services; and a reduced need for Specialty Trade Contractors.

Since September 2011, total nonfarm industries saw gains of about 30,000 jobs. Education and Health Services (+6,600); Manufacturing (+5,500); Trade, Transportation and Utilities (+5,200); Leisure and Hospitality (+4,600); Government (+4,100); Professional and Business Services (+2,400); Financial Activities (+1,600); and Information (+1,400) had job increases. Construction (-700) and Other Services (-400) jobs experienced losses.

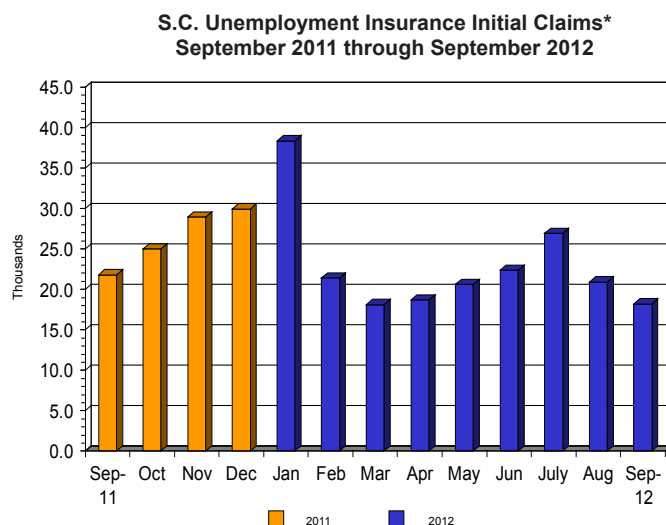
Over the year, the metropolitan statistical areas of Charleston (+7,200), Spartanburg (+6,100), Columbia (+5,200), and Florence (+3,500) have shown growth. Sumter had modest job increases (+500), along with Myrtle Beach (+300). Greenville dropped by approximately 4,200 jobs, and Anderson was down 300 jobs, mainly due to a reduction in service related jobs.

Survey estimates show the state's average weekly manufacturing hours increased by 0.5 hours over the month. Hourly wages decreased by \$0.04. Over the year, hours have been flat with wages increasing by \$0.46 per hour.



September Initial Unemployment Claims

South Carolina's total initial claims for September had a decrease of 2,701 from the previous month, and 3,597 fewer claims than in September 2011. Regular Unemployment Insurance (UI) Benefits Paid showed a significant decline of approximately \$12.1 million from a year ago. As fewer people were applying for unemployment benefits, the number of those who depleted the balance of their regular UI benefits also fell by 1,292 from the same time last year. Additionally, there was a noteworthy drop in the Average Duration of Benefits Paid from 15.5 weeks to 13.7 weeks over the past year.



SC Unemployment Activities

Total Initial Claims*	18,211
Regular UI Benefits Paid	\$19,650,843
UI Benefits Exhausted	3,477
Average Duration Benefits Paid (weeks)	13.7
Average Weekly Benefits Amount	\$251.04

* All programs

Labor Supply Versus Labor Demand

South Carolina Workforce Areas

Catawba

Chester County
Lancaster County
York County

Greenville

Greenville County *

Lowcountry

Beaufort County
Colleton County
Hampton County
Jasper County

Lower Savannah

Aiken County
Allendale County
Bamberg County
Barnwell County
Calhoun County *
Orangeburg County

Midlands

Fairfield County *
Lexington County *
Richland County *

Pee Dee

Chesterfield County
Darlington County *
Dillon County
Florence County *
Marion County
Marlboro County

Santee-Lynches

Clarendon County
Kershaw County *
Lee County
Sumter County *

Trident

Berkeley County *
Charleston County *
Dorchester County *

Upper Savannah

Abbeville County
Edgefield County
Greenwood County
Laurens County *
McCormick County
Newberry County
Saluda County *

Upstate

Cherokee County
Spartanburg County *
Union County

Waccamaw

Georgetown County
Horry County *
Williamsburg County

WorkLink

Anderson County *
Oconee County
Pickens County *

* These are counties affiliated with SC Metropolitan Statistical Areas

Online job advertisements in South Carolina, as reported by the Conference Board Help Wanted OnLine® (HWOL) data series, showed an increase of about 2,900 ads from August to September. Compared to a year ago, there were approximately 8,800 more online ads in September 2012. On the national level, online ads saw a gain of 128,600 in the past month.

Labor demand was most significant in the Trident Workforce Area (Berkeley, Charleston, and Dorchester counties) with 13,201 posted advertisements. The Midlands Workforce Area (Fairfield, Lexington, and Richland counties) followed with 12,290 online advertisements. Statewide, the labor supply versus demand rate plummeted from 3.7 to 3.3. This was the largest over-the-month rate decrease this year.

The top five online advertisements in South Carolina for September included:

1. Registered Nurses = 3,030
2. Truck Drivers, Heavy and Tractor-Trailer = 2,256
3. First-Line Supervisors & Managers of Retail Sales Workers = 2,159
4. Retail Salespersons = 1,629
5. Physical Therapists = 1,539

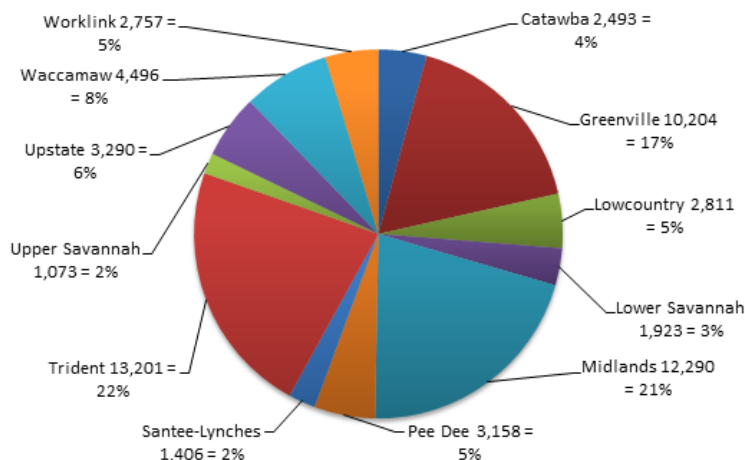
This table shows a breakdown of data and a ratio of jobseekers to job openings by workforce area.

Workforce Areas	Job Openings	Jobseekers	Jobseekers Per Opening Ratio
September 2012 Data			
Catawba	2,493	16,295	7:1 ↑
Greenville	10,204	14,544	1:1 ↓
Lowcountry	2,811	7,767	3:1
Lower Savannah	1,923	14,320	7:1 ↓
Midlands	12,290	23,642	2:1
Pee Dee	3,158	15,862	5:1 ↓
Santee-Lynches	1,406	8,986	6:1 ↓
Trident	13,201	22,383	2:1
Upper Savannah	1,073	9,744	9:1 ↓
Upstate	3,290	15,298	5:1
Waccamaw	4,496	15,269	3:1
Worklink	2,757	13,332	5:1
South Carolina (SC)	58,000 (SA)	194,253 (SA)	3:1 ↓
United States (U.S.)	4,813,400 (SA)	12,100,000 (SA)	3:1

SA=Seasonally Adjusted

The Conference Board Help Wanted OnLine® (HWOL) data series measures online jobs (rounded) from about 16,000 major Internet job sites and smaller job sites that serve niche markets and smaller geographic areas. The online series counts the number of online job advertisements, which may or may not have multiple job openings. The level of ads in print and online can change for reasons not related to overall job demand.

South Carolina Job Advertisements by Workforce Area



Sources:

- The Conference Board Help Wanted OnLine® data series;
- The U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics;
- The South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce, Labor Market Information